THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) External Affairs Minister has not made any official visit to France during this year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Extradition Treaties

3418. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with whom India has signed extradition treaties, so far; and

(b) to countries with whom the extradition treaties are likely to be signed during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) India has signed extradition treaties with 16 countries (Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uzbekistan).

(b) Extradition treaties with Germany and Turkey have been signed during the current financial year. The texts of the extradition treaties with Philippines, Poland and Spain have been initialled at the official level, but the treaties can be signed only after the Contracting States in each case complete the requisite process of obtaining internal approvals.

Missing of Bengali Chef from British Ship

3419.SHR1MATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Indian chef, 27, falls of QE 2, search abandoned" which appeared in 'The Asian Age' dated the 25th July, 2001 (Kolkata Edition) and newsitem captioned "Bengali chef missing from British ship" appearing in the Times of India dated the 28th July, 2001 (Kolkata Edition),

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;